

The holotype (W.A. Mus. reg. no. P. 734), 52 mm. in standard length, was examined and Whitley's description confirmed, except that counts of 9 to  $9\frac{1}{2}$  anal rays were made instead of 8 as Whitley records.

The recent specimen (W.A. Mus. reg. no. P. 5506), measuring 61 mm. in standard length, 72 mm. in total length, agrees for the most part with Whitley's description, but shows variation in body proportions and scale counts.

Body proportions and scale counts are given. Those of the holotype are in brackets:—

Head 2.7 (2.7), depth 2.2 (2.4) in standard length. Eye 3.1 (2.7), snout 5.5 (4.7), least depth of caudal peduncle 3.1 (3.5) in head. Interorbital 2.2 (2.4), maxillary 1.6 (1.6), pectoral fin 2.4 (2.4) in head. Scales in lateral line 27 (27). Scales anterior to ventral fins 8 (about 15). Abdominal scutes 8 (12). About 5 to 6 predorsal scales (about 8). Anal rays 9 ( $9\frac{1}{2}$ ).

—R. J. McKAY, W.A. State Fisheries Department.

#### Little Pied Cormorant Nesting on Islands on the West Coast.—

During a survey of the islands to the north of Jurien Bay in May 1961, one of us (J.R.F.) found several solitary cormorant nests on limestone ledges on Snag Island, Drummond Rock and Milligan Islet. These were tentatively attributed to the Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax varius*) although this species usually breeds in crowded colonies on the main plateau of the island or on the gently sloping sides, the nests being built on the tops of low bushes such as *Nitraria schoberi*.

The identity of these nests was subsequently ascertained during another survey on September 3, 1961, when we found a Little Pied Cormorant (*P. melanoleucos*) incubating a clutch of five eggs in a nest situated on a shelf under a limestone cliff on the north-east side of Webb Islet. The individual was flushed from the nest in order to compare its size with the Pied Cormorant, a number of which were nesting on and flying over the island, and an egg was removed to substantiate the identification. A cross-section of the limestone cliff illustrating the position of the nest was drawn and is herewith reproduced.

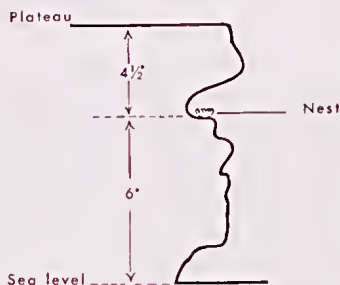


Diagram illustrating position of nest of little Pied Cormorant

In the South-West, the Little Pied Cormorant usually constructs its nest, a platform of sticks, in a tree growing in a swamp in water (D. L. Serventy and H. M. Whittell, *The Birds of Western Australia*, 1962; 113). W. R. B. Oliver (*New Zealand Birds*, 1955; 202-6) states that the species usually selects trees overhanging the water in rivers, estuaries, sheltered inlets and on small outlying islands. The species also nests in mangroves along the coast. K. A. Hindwood and A. R. McGill (*The Birds of Sydney*, 1958, 28) list it as having nested in such situations at Botany Bay, and P. Fuller (*pers. comm.*) informs us that it regularly nests in the mangroves near Carnarvon.

—J. R. FORD, E. H. and L. SEDGWICK.

**Southward Extension of the Range of the Blue-and-White Wren and the Crested Bell-bird.**—In their paper, "The Birds of the Moore River Gorge Country" (*W.A. Nat.*, 3, 1952: 107), W. H. Loaring and D. L. Serventy remarked that the status of the Blue-and-White Wren (*Malurus leuconotus*) appeared to have remained unchanged in the area since the earlier survey of F. L. Whitlock in 1903, though this species had made a notable advance southward nearer the coast. The Crested Bell-bird (*Oreoica gutturalis*) was mentioned in the list of species which have pushed farther into the South-West since 1903 or have increased in abundance, on the basis of Whitlock's assessment. In *Birds of Western Australia* (Serventy & Whittell, 3rd edn., 1962) the distribution of the Blue-and-White Wren is given as southwards to a line joining Mogumber, Corrigin and Norseman, with a broken distribution on the coastal plain south to Perth. Of the Crested Bell-bird these authors state that although it is not usually found in the South-West corner, south and west of Mogumber and the Great Southern Railway, in 1954 the species was observed at Beermullah, and in August 1957 H. A. Atkinson and J. R. Ford recorded it six miles north of Yanehep.

On October 18, 1962, following the report of an unknown bird from Mr. Graham Aleorn, I visited an area 1½ miles south-west of the southern end of Lake Pinjar, about 5½ miles eastwards in a direct line from the coast. Here I saw a small party of Blue-and-White Wrens—a male in full plumage and two or three brown birds. The country had been cleared by the Forestry Department for a pine plantation and was fundamentally sandplain with dead stumps and low shrubs.

On November 23, 1962, I visited the area again, still on the trail of the bird described by Mr. Aleorn, and this time I found a Crested Bell-bird, a male in full song, which was almost certainly the unknown bird.

Dr. D. L. Serventy informs me that in 1960 Mr. R. H. Taylor of Kalamunda saw a male Crested Bell-bird one mile north of the Gngagara pine plantation, that is about 8 miles further south-west again.

These records are the furthest south of the Crested Bell-bird, and the furthest inland observation of the Blue-and-White Wren along